



News Release

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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CDPH Lifts Extended Mussel Quarantine and Health Advisory for Humboldt and Del Norte Counties

SACRAMENTO - The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is lifting the November 6, 2012, health advisory warning consumers not to eat recreationally harvested bivalve shellfish (such as clams and scallops) from Del Norte County. CDPH is also lifting the October 31, 2012, extension of the annual mussel quarantine for Humboldt and Del Norte counties. Recent testing shows levels of paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP) toxins have declined to safe or undetectable levels.

The naturally occurring PSP toxins can cause illness or death in humans. There have been no reports of human poisoning from PSP in California during this event.

The health advisory for all sport-harvested bivalve shellfish in Marin County remains in effect. Dangerous levels of the PSP toxins continue to be detected in shellfish samples from this region.

This health advisory does not apply to commercially sold clams, mussels, scallops or oysters from approved sources. State law only permits state-certified commercial shellfish harvesters or dealers to sell these products. Shellfish sold by certified harvesters and dealers are subject to frequent mandatory testing.

This season's conditions highlight the importance of being aware of current restrictions that may be in effect. The CDPH Biotxin Information Line (1-800-553-4133) provides updates on current quarantines and health advisories throughout the year.

CDPH's ability to protect the public from dangerous PSP toxins is due in large part to the numerous organizations and volunteers that collected shellfish samples for testing. Those who are interested in taking part in this important monitoring program should email RedTide@cdph.ca.gov or call 1-800-553-4133. CDPH can provide the necessary training and equipment for collecting and shipping samples.

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